



UPDATE FROM THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF ALBERTA MARCH 2023 TO AUGUST 2023

PASSING THE CROWN: KING CHARLES III IS CORONATED



King Charles - then Prince of Wales - visited Alberta in July 1977.

The Coronation of King Charles III this past May was a significant moment in history for Canadians. I was delighted to meet with His Majesty before his Coronation ceremony and to learn of his ongoing interest in fostering a lasting relationship with Indigenous communities in Alberta, and more broadly, with all Albertans. Although I was unable to host a Coronation Celebration due to the emergency wildfire situation, I was deeply moved and heartened to see how communities in our province all came together to support those impacted by the wildfires.

I have been pleased to participate in events that centred around commemorating, celebrating, and uplifting Albertans from all walks of life in the past six months. In May and July, I participated in tours of the Emergency Services Centre in Edmonton to learn about the wildfire response, and attended other occasions acknowledging the service and hard work of first responders. August brought the opportunity to celebrate graduates from the Bold Eagle program at CFB Wainwright, and to serve as Honourary Chair of the Military Cup golf tournament. I was very glad to celebrate Alberta's military and first responders, who make it their livelihood to keep our province safe.

I have also been fortunate to join in events hosted by Indigenous leaders and communities. In August, I attended the Alberta Indigenous Games Opening Ceremony, the Samson Cree Pow Wow, and toured the kihcihkaw aski cultural site in Edmonton's river valley. These visits and events have been opportunities for me to continue in my journey of learning from all First Peoples and to celebrate and connect with Indigenous communities in an intentional and respectful way.

These are a few of the thoughtful gatherings that I am most grateful to have been able to participate in as Lieutenant Governor. With the third year of my term now complete, I have seen first-hand how much the individual strengths and stories of Albertans contribute to our ability to come together as a province. I often remark that I believe we all have an important role to play when it comes to creating a vibrant province that we can all thrive in harmoniously. As I continually deepen my understanding of our communities, newcomers, settlers, and Indigenous peoples alike, I am hopeful and excited to see the path forward that we will walk together towards the future of Alberta.

Shaktani

The Honourable Salma Lakhani
Lieutenant Governor of Alberta



Her Honour had an audience with His Majesty King Charles III at Buckingham Palace on April 27, 2023.

The Coronation of King Charles III & Queen Camilla

On May 6, 2023, King Charles III was coronated in an elaborate ceremony in London. Her Honour had the pleasure of meeting His Majesty just over a week before he was crowned.

In keeping with long-held tradition, His Majesty welcomed his personal representative in Alberta, the Lieutenant Governor, at a private audience in Buckingham Palace. King Charles expressed profound enthusiasm for establishing an enduring connection with Indigenous peoples and all Albertans.

Once back in Alberta, Her Honour took part in various Coronation celebrations, including: 604 Cadets Coronation Walk & BBQ, and the Grand Highland Military Ball in Calgary, a Coronation Tea hosted by Alberta Protocol Office and held at Government House, and a Coronation dinner organized by the Canadian Club, Monarchist League, and Royal Commonwealth Society, of which are all patronage organizations of Her Honour.

Her Honour was planning to host a special Coronation Celebration at the U of A Botanic Garden with performances from various musical and dance groups, but the wildfire situation in early May triggered a state of emergency in the province, prompting Her Honour to cancel the event. Custom cookies with the coronation emblem created for the occasion were instead delivered to the Emergency Services Centre in Edmonton where evacuees had gathered.



Their Honours attended the Grand Highland Military Ball in Calgary on May 6, 2023 to celebrate the King's Coronation.



Alberta Protocol Office organized a wonderful tea to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla.



Coronation emblem cookies were redirected to wildfire evacuees after a state of emergency was declared in early May.



Their Honours arrive at Government House to attend the Coronation Tea on May 14, 2023.

CELEBRATING ALBERTANS

As the world continued to return to in-person events and celebrations, Lieutenant Governor Lakhani enjoyed many opportunities to recognize the amazing Albertans who dedicate their time and talents in the service of others and their communities.

Award and milestone celebrations over the past six months included: the JUNO awards in Edmonton, Consulting Engineers of Alberta Awards Gala, International Women's Day Awards, Canadian Business Leader Awards, ICWA 29th Anniversary celebration, Stars of Alberta & Alberta Sports Awards, Commissionaires Annual Awards Banquet, University of Alberta Honourary Degree Reception, Emerald Awards, Queen's Platinum Jubilee Citizenship Awards, and Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers presentation ceremony.



Her Honour at Edmonton City Hall for a fireside chat with Amal Popatia on International Women's Day.



Her Honour with Sanaaj Mirrie, founder of Afisi Groove School, at the JUNOS on March 13, 2023.



Celebrating the recipients of the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers at a ceremony on August 1, 2023 in Edmonton at Government House.

HONOURING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

The Lieutenant Governor is deeply committed to meeting with and learning from all First People. She regularly meets with Indigenous leaders, groups, and organizations to hear about the work they are doing. For the first time, the Chiefs of the Confederacy of Treaty Six were hosted by Her Honour at Government House for their Annual General Meeting in July. A number of emerging and concerning priorities such as the opioid crisis and impending water legislation were discussed over the two full days of meetings.

Her Honour also took part in a number of special events with Indigenous community members, including: the grand opening of the Aboriginal Friendship Centre of Calgary's Elder Drop-in centre, 2023 IndSpire Awards, Blue Quill Residential School gathering, National Indigenous People's Day celebration and Kiskinohamakewin Cultural Camp at Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society in Edmonton, Powwows at Calgary Stampede and in Maskwacis, opening ceremonies for the Alberta Indigenous Games, and touring the kihcihkaw askî cultural site in Edmonton's river valley.



Her Honour taking part in National Indigenous People's Day celebrations at Bent Arrow on June 21, 2023.



Attending the grand opening of the Elders drop-in centre at Calgary's Aboriginal Friendship Centre on April 12, 2023.



Her Honour greeting guests (left) and with Elders (above) who participated in Treaty 6 meetings at Government House in July.

EDUCATION



Meeting with students from Gobind Sarvar School in Calgary on March 17, 2023.



Visiting Mary Hanley School in Edmonton on June 5, 2023.

The Lieutenant Governor is an ardent supporter of education in all forms, and for people at every age and at every point of their life's journey.

Her Honour participates in the School at the Legislature program, meeting with Grade 6 classes as part of their studies on the Canadian system of government. Recent visits included: Michael A. Kostek School, St. Martin's School, and Mary Hanley School from Edmonton, Sister Alphonse Academy from St. Albert, Lycée international de Calgary, and Wabamun School. Her Honour also enjoyed virtual visits with classes from Lawrence Grassi Middle School in Canmore and T.A. Norris Middle School in Peace River. Schools that invited Her Honour to stop by in person to learn from students included McKernan School and Nellie Carlson School in Edmonton, and Gobind Sarvar School in Calgary.

Teachers interested in arranging a class visit can contact the office at LTgov@gov.ab.ca.



Students from St. Martin's School in Edmonton met with Her Honour on May 10, 2023 as part of the School at the Legislature program.

Other education events over the past six months included: attending the President's Dinner at NorQuest College, taking part in Edmonton Public School Board's Diversity Day virtual event, and presenting recipients with the Honouring Spirit awards at Government House. Twelve Indigenous students from across Alberta were recognized with an award from the Alberta School Board Association at a ceremony this past April (below).



ALBERTA'S MILITARY & FIRST RESPONDERS

The Lieutenant Governor attends events with the military and Alberta's uniformed services on a regular basis.

In May, wildfires swept many parts of the province. Her Honour visited the Emergency Services Centre in Edmonton where evacuees were, toured the AB Emergency Management Agency to learn about the wildfire response, and went to Drayton Valley to meet members of the Domestic Response Company - the Canadian Army reserve unit deployed to the area to assist with firefighting.

On July 8, 2023, Spruce Meadows in Calgary held their annual Military Family Day, Feu de Joie, and the ATCO Queen Elizabeth II Cup. This event is in appreciation of all military members and their family, and Her Honour brought greetings to share her gratitude for their important service.

Her Honour was pleased to attend the Bold Eagle Graduation at CFB Wainwright in August. This six-week program has been graduating Indigenous soldiers since 1989. Her Honour was the reviewing officer for the graduation parade and also inspected the Quarter Guard, took part in a pipe ceremony, presented awards, and gave congratulatory remarks to the graduates.

Other military events included: 1 Field Ambulance 125th Heritage Celebration and Freedom of the City parade in St. Albert at the end of July, and acting as Honorary Chair for the Military Cup golf tournament in Edmonton.



Their Honours at the Military Family Day event at Spruce Meadows in Calgary on July 8, 2023.



The Lieutenant Governor meets with members at the AEMA (above) and the Emergency Services Centre in Edmonton (below) to learn about the wildfire response in May 2023.



COMMUNITY FESTIVALS & CONFERENCES

The spring and summer is busy with festivals and celebrations across Alberta. Her Honour had the pleasure of attending: Junior Achievement Leading Ladies brunch, Iftar hosted by the City of Edmonton, Parkland County Women in Leadership luncheon, Petrolia Seniors tea, Canada Day celebrations at the Legislature, Calgary Stampede events including the parade and several breakfasts, the World Drowning Prevention Day flag-raising, K-Days, Taste of Edmonton, Heritage Festival in Edmonton, and the Edmonton Fringe Festival.

Her Honour was thrilled to serve as Honorary Skirt in this year's Skirts-a-Fire festival in March. She was also invited to share her story at several conferences including: the National Dialogues Project, Shoe Project, HerStory Speakers event, Central Alberta Business Summit and Duke of Edinburgh's Commonwealth Study Conference in Red Deer, World Diversity in Leadership Conference, Food Banks Canada National Conference, Commonwealth Parliamentary Academy program, YLI Speakers Series for YMCA Calgary, and the North American Refugee Health Conference.



Her Honour at the Canada Day Citizenship Ceremony at the Alberta Legislative bandshell.



International delegates from the Commonwealth Parliamentary Academy program met Her Honour in Edmonton on June 16.



Her Honour delivered remarks at the Food Banks Canada National Conference in Edmonton on June 26, 2023.



The Lieutenant Governor talking with attendees of the Duke of Edinburgh Commonwealth Study Conference in Red Deer this June.

FOSTERING INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP



Their Honours welcoming Her Royal Highness Princess Anne in Calgary on June 3, 2023.

Her Honour often welcomes members of the Consular Corps for courtesy calls and also greets international dignitaries visiting Alberta.

On June 3, 2023, the Lieutenant Governor was pleased to meet Her Royal Highness Princess Anne when she landed in Calgary for an engagement in Banff. She also welcomed Prince Hussain Aga Khan in May at the opening of his photographic exhibit "The Living Sea - Fragile Beauty" at the Glenbow in Calgary.

Courtesy calls included meeting with the Ambassador of Georgia, Ambassador of Ukraine, and High Commissioner of New Zealand. Her Honour was a guest at the Honorary Consul of Portugal's event for the National Day of Portugal in June and at the US Ambassador's Independence Day celebration in Calgary.

CONSTITUTIONAL DUTIES



Swearing-in the new Cabinet at Government House on June 9, 2023.

Vice-regal representatives play an important role in maintaining Canada's constitutional traditions and continuity of government.

As part of her ongoing constitutional duties, Her Honour granted Royal Assent to bills brought forward by the Assembly and signed Orders in Council. She was busy this spring due to the Alberta election in May: swearing-in the new members of Cabinet on June 9 at Government House and then swearing-in all MLAs at the Legislature on June 19 & 20.

Her Honour also spoke to participants of the Alberta Girls Parliament program about her role as Lieutenant Governor in March 30 and took part in an Eid al-Adha ceremony hosted by the Speaker (below) on July 10.

